[18th November 1948

Safeguarding the interests of Indian nationals in Burma.

* 64 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state what steps the Government of Madras have taken to safeguard the interest of Nationals of Madras in view of the disturbed situation in Burma and whether facilities are being provided to enable them to return to India, as was done on the occasion of the Japanese invasion?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The question of safeguarding the interests of Indian nationals including Madrasis, in Burma is one falling within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government, who should be addressed in the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether this Government have no interest when our nationals are being put to trouble in Malaya, Burma and Ceylon? Have this Government conceded all their powers to the Centre? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We cannot deal with foreign countries. We have been dealing with them through the Government of India and we are taking all possible steps in this matter."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Have the representations from the Chettiyar community been forwarded to the Government of India? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir."

Petition from the Harijans of Mupparru village, Eluru taluk.

* 65 *Q.*—SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Collector, West Godavari, Deputy Collector, Eluru, and Tahsildar, Eluru, received any petitions from the landless Harijans of Mupparru of Eluru taluk, containing serious allegations of bribery and corruption against the head karnam of the Mupparru village;

(*b*) how many petitions and on what dates; and whether any enquiries have since been made; and

(*c*) if so, when, where and by whom and on what dates; and what the results are?

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Petitions of some of the Harijans of Mupparru village of Eluru taluk were received by the Collector of West Godavari on 22nd August 1947 and 6th October 1947. The Revenue Inspector of Pedapadu firka held enquiries at Mupparru village on 14th November 1947, 20th February 1948 and 21st February 1948, and at Satyavole village on 18th February 1948. The Revenue Inspector is reported to have held an enquiry also on 26th July 1947. Regarding this enquiry a

further report has been called for from the Collector. The Headquarters Deputy Tahsildar conducted the enquiry at Mupparru village on 4th April 1948. As the allegations against the karnam were not proved no further action was taken on the petitions."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is not the Collector of a district competent to deal with such matters? "

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" It is a small thing about karnam and the Collector need not go to the village to deal with it."

Duty of sweepers in the City hospitals.

* 66 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Sri P. R. K. Sarma) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many beds or patients are served by a sweeper for day and night shifts in the following hospitals, viz., the Rayapuram Hospital, General Hospital, Tuberculosis Hospital, Royapetta and Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram;

(*b*) how many calls a sweeper has to attend to ordinarily;

(*c*) what the hours of work and duration of shift of the sweepers and the sanitary staff in the said institutions are;

(*d*) whether they get regularly a weekly off-day; and

(*e*) whether any representations have been received from the men through department or otherwise for enhancing the staff suitably?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) In the Government General Hospital, Madras, one sweeper is allotted to each ward, one by day and one by night and they are changed every week. In the other three hospitals the sweepers do not serve the patients; they attend to the general cleanliness of the hospital buildings and premises.

" (*b*) In the General Hospital, patients confined to bed and operated cases only require their services and it is not possible to specify the actual number of calls each sweeper has to attend to. In the other three institutions they do not attend to any calls.

" (*c*) In the General Hospital, day duty consists of 11 hours with one hour interval and night duty 13 hours with two hours interval. By night, the men go to sleep except when they are required by patients. In the Tuberculosis Hospital, Madras, the hours of work are from 7-30 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and in the Stanley Hospital, Madras, from 6-30 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the latter three institutions there is no night duty. The sanitary staff in these institutions consists of Health Inspectors, peons, toties, lascars and gardeners according to the needs of each institution requiring their services.